CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION				
OUNTRY	USSR (Kalinin Oblast)	REPORT		
UBJECT	Working Conditions at Podlipki and on Gorodomlya Island	DATE DISTR.	13 April 1953	
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The Germans on Gorodomlya Island lived within a barbed wire enclosure and under the surveillance of armed guards. The enclosure included the entire area of the immediate. Within it were free to move about except in the immediate proximity of the fence, which was constantly patrolled. In the summer were allowed to pass through the fence at two places in order to reach bathing beaches. Buoys which carried signs designating the area of the island as forbidden surrounded the island.

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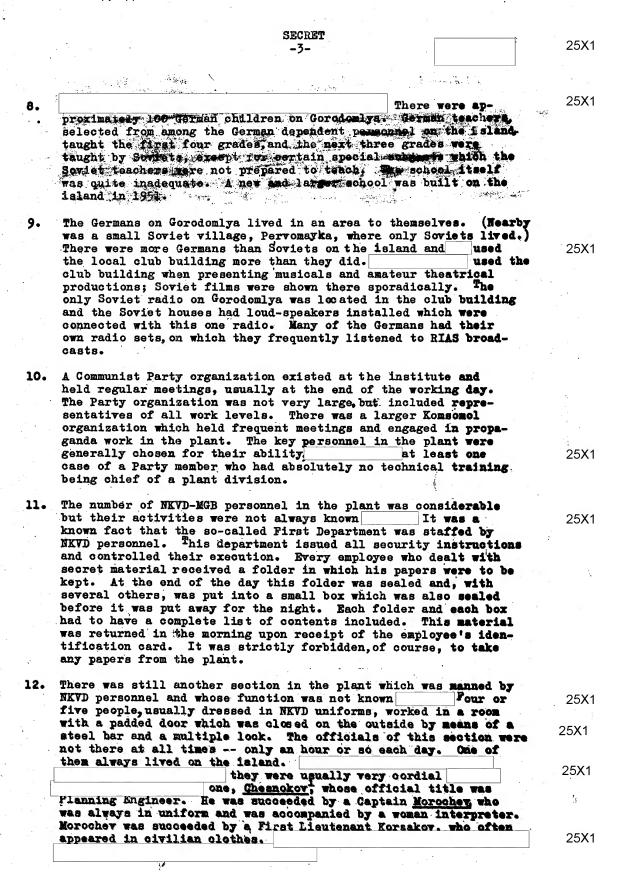
6. There were two food shops within the area, one for the Germans and another for the Soviets, and a general store (promtovarnyy magazin). lived in wooden houses under very crowded conditions.

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two families to a two-room house.

It was customary to assign
The Soviets were equally
crowded, if not more so.

7. Most of the Soviet higher echelon personnel lived in Ostashkov and commuted daily by boat in the summer or by bus in the winter, when Seliger Lake was frozen over. Germans were not allowed to live in Ostashkov. There was one exception, an 18-year-old German girl who was permitted to complete her studies at the 10-year school there in 1951.



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13.

received a so-called "attendance check"

(Anwesenheitsmarke)

These were stamped according to the department in which the employee worked.

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- 14. Plant guards were posted in front of the institute building before each separate unit, and patrolled the area. They were under a commanding officer who was directly responsible to the director of the institute and would take no orders from anyone else. The guards were no special uniforms but were permitted to wear old army clothes. They were all provided with either a gun or a pistol.
- 15. There were but few instances of Germans getting into difficulty with the NKVD. One German engineer was sentenced to a half year's imprisonment for refusing to work. He was sent to Kalinin and there, at the expiration of this period, was given a prolonged sentence. His friends on Gorodomlya received a few letters from him in which he asked for money and then there was no further word from him. He seemed to have disappeared forever.
- 16. There was some talk of the activities of an underground resistance group in East Germany and several specialists were subjected to questioning in this connection. There were, however, no arrests made on the island as a result of this investigation.

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- 17. The German specialists received much higher salaries than the Soviets. Among the latter the director received 2500 rubles a month, department heads 2000, engineers 1500, technical workers 1000 to 1500, secretaries 500 to 1000, plumbers 600, laborers 500, guards 400 or less, and construction helpers (women) 300 or 250. The interpreter/translator was paid on a piecework basis and earned as much as 2000 rubles a month. The small circle of high-level personnel and key technicians were given bonuses in addition to their basic salaries.
- 18. German department heads (who always had Soviet deputies) were paid 8500 rubles a month, scientific workers 6000 to 7500, graduate engineers 4000 to 5000, other engineers 3000, and master artisans 2500. Since those possessing university degrees were given higher salaries, there was a tendency for specialists to falsify their titles. In one case it was discovered that a German had falsely claimed the possession of a doctor's degree and his salary was reduced from 6000 to 2000 rubles. Strangely enough, this German decided to become a naturalized Soviet citizen and remained in the Soviet Union.
- 19. For a long time no particular attempts were made to politically indoctrinate the Germans on Gorodomlya. A government commission from Moscow visited the institute in 1950 and decided that the Germans there were politically immature and that political courses should be organized. Some of the Germans also took the initiative and suggested that political study circles be formed. This was done with Soviet instructors and a study of The History of the All-Union Communist Party. Bolshevik Short Course was undertaken. The enterprise did not last long, however. After an enthusiastic start, the attendance of Germans fell off more and more. The Germans soon discovered that the Soviet instructors were completely incapable of explaining such political questions to

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	people whose thought was not steeped in official doctrine. The course was discontinued and the Soviets seemed to be happy to leave the Germans to our ignorance of Marxism.	÷
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